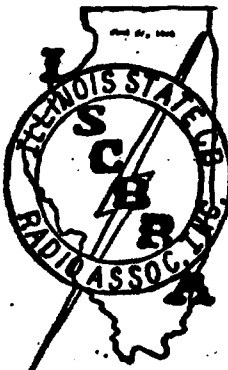


Federal Communications
Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554



ISCBRA

ORIGINAL
FILE

President: Mark Mayfield
1401 Prophetstown Road
Rock Falls, IL 61071
815/625-8038

September 16, 1992

Regarding PR Docket 92-136

Dear FCC:

The Illinois State Citizen Band Radio Association (ISCBRA) is not in Favor of PR Docket 92-136. Also agree that this would not be authority to make a habit of tying up the radio wave useage or intent for playing music. We do agree that there are violaters, but do not believe it is being done by good people and radio groups.

RECEIVED

SEP 22 1992

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Sincerely,

Mark S. Mayfield

Mark Mayfield

President ISCBRA

RECEIVED

SEP 21 1992

MAIL BRANCH

No. of Copies rec'd
List A B C D E

June 24 1992

RECEIVED

SEP 22 1992

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

FCC Proposes Relaxation of Rules Regarding Public Service Work

The FCC has proposed to relax its rules for amateurs to permit some public service communications that are currently prohibited. The proposed changes, in PR Docket 92-136, would give amateurs greater flexibility in providing communications for public service activities such as parades, fairs, and races, as well as for certain personal communications.

The proposed changes were presented at an open meeting of the Commission on June 18, 1992, and are based on recommendations of the ARRL as outlined in March, 1992 *QST*, page 62. In order to protect the non-commercial basis for the amateur service, any communications for hire or for material compensation, direct or indirect, would continue to be strictly prohibited.

The FCC's announcement of the proposal contains one caveat for amateurs. "While eliminating some of the existing restrictions would provide the flexibility to expand public service activities and satisfy the personal communications interests (of amateurs), the potential for commercial exploitation and abuse of the amateur service's allocated frequencies could increase," the Commission said.

FCC Personal Radio Branch (PRB) staffer William Cross told the Commissioners that the pecuniary interest constraints in the current rules often prohibit public service communications by amateurs. Cross said that there had been several petitions for changes in the rules, and that the PRB had chosen the League's version for presentation.

Commissioner James Quello ex-

pressed concern about any alteration of the original intent of the Amateur Radio Service, saying he did not want anything in the proceeding to endanger the Amateur Radio Service's tradition of self-regulation.

Quello, and other Commissioners in turn, then brought up the recent increase in complaints from some amateurs about so-called "indecent" language on the amateur bands. PRB Chief Ralph Haller responded by noting that such speech — on broadcast as well as amateur frequencies — is protected by the First Amendment and is a gray area.

Haller praised the League for its recent survey of young amateurs (see *The ARRL Letter*, June 10, 1992). Haller noted that PRB and other offices within the FCC continue to work on the "indecentcy" enforcement issue. Haller emphasized that it was only a handful of bad operators that was at issue. He said the vast majority of the 560,000 amateurs obeyed the rules, but that there were a dozen or so bad apples causing the "indecentcy" complaints.

(Later, at a press conference, Haller noted that the issue of language on the amateur bands had no connection with the proposal being considered.)

Returning to the matter of amending the "business communication" rules, Commissioner Ervin Duggan said his interest was in preserving the original intent of the Amateur Radio Service, calling the proposed rules changes "fraught with implications." He advised "extreme caution," expressing the fear of such things as amateurs transmitting music.

Haller replied that he shared

Duggan's concerns, and that there was no intention to change the character of the Service. Haller noted an absurdity in the rules, saying that when he attended an amateur function recently, his arrival was announced locally on Amateur Radio — and that was a violation of the rules!

Finally, Chairman Alfred Sikes praised the League for its initiative in suggesting the rules changes, and said that Commissioner Quello has been a supporter of amateurs right along, while agreeing with Quello that nothing in the rules changes should be allowed to damage the integrity of the Amateur Service or the fundamental self-policing aspect of it.

At this point, the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, incorporating changes in FCC Rules Part 97.113 as generally suggested by the ARRL, was approved unanimously by the Commissioners.

Following the meeting, Haller was asked several questions, one of which was whether, for example, cellular telephone companies would complain about increased use of Amateur Radio for personal affairs involving autopatch or phone patch use. Haller said that the volume of this kind of traffic was so small as not to be a problem, and that it was an incidental part of Amateur Radio.

The comment deadline for PR Docket 92-136 has been set for October 1, 1992, with reply comments due by December 1. The text of the NPRM is set for release around July 2.

Additional background on this topic appears in "It Seems to Us," on page 9 of *QST* for December, 1991.

VIA ARRL Newsletter